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Family Connection is a publication of the Fleet
and Family Support Program.

The Navy's Fleet and Family Support Program
promotes the self-reliance and resiliency of
Sailors and their families. We provide information
that can help you meet the unique challenges of
the military lifestyle.

If you have questions or comments, contact
Timothy McGough at timothy.mcough@navy.mil.

Visit us online at:



Happy Birthday NAVY RESERVE

Reserve Sailors demonstrate daily that they are both ready and capable. Mission-essential units and individual augmentees play a vital role in the ongoing operations of the active Navy through the full range of operations, from peace to war. The [Navy Reserve](#) celebrates 97 years of strengthening the Total Force on March 3rd. Thank you to the outstanding Navy Reservists and families for their commitment, sacrifice and service. *"Ready Now. Anytime, Anywhere."*

*"Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress; working
together is success."*

– Henry Ford

Commissary Guard/ Reserve On-Site Sales

March 3-4

[Guard and Reserve](#)

1705 Coonskin Drive
Charleston, WV 25311

March 9-10

[Army National Guard](#)

113 South Coleville St.
Walla Walla, WA 99362

American Red Cross

March is "Red Cross" Month. [The American Red Cross](#) continues its support to military members and their families, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The American Red Cross provides emergency communication that links Sailors with their families back home, grants access to financial assistance and promotes successful reengagement by offering [Reconnection Workshops](#).

These workshops focus on positive reunions among family members and their returning deployed military loved ones. Reserve, National Guard, active-duty service members, veterans and their families, including spouses, parents, siblings and significant others, are encouraged to participate. Topics include:

- Communicating Clearly
- Identifying Depression
- Exploring Stress and Trauma
- Relating to Children



Scan QR Code
to access via
mobile device

Visit the [American Red Cross website](#) or call (877) 272-7337.

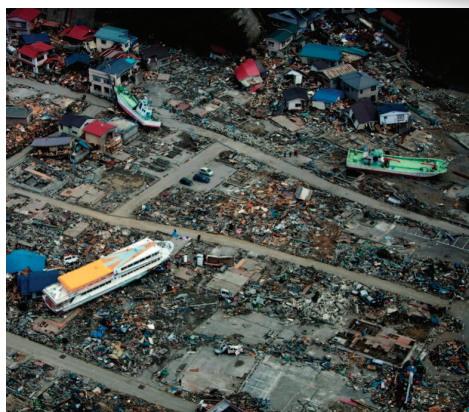


Operation Prepare

March 11th marks the one-year anniversary of the devastating tsunami in Japan that claimed more than 14,000 lives. Ensure that you and your family are taking the necessary steps to be prepared in the event of a natural disaster:

- Be informed of advisories.
- Have a family emergency plan.
- Make an emergency kit.
- Update contact information with your command or through the [Navy Family Accountability and Assistance System \(NFAAS\)](#).

For more information, visit the [Commander, Navy Installations Command, Operation Prepare website](#).



“Navy Life” Mobile Application for iPhone/iPod/iPad Version 2.0 Released

The updated “Navy Life” application has arrived and is waiting for you! Available on iPhones, iPods and iPads, this touch application provides access to important quality of life resources for Navy personnel, retirees and their families.

No more sitting in front of a computer. Want to find out who your command ombudsman is? Go to the “Navy Life” application on your iPhone to instantly “Contact Your Ombudsman” using the “Our Navy” section. You can also view command and senior leadership Facebook sites, research programs offering support to military members and their families, and check out what’s new at MWR.

The iPhone/iPod/iPad application is a free [download](#). Your comments and suggestions are welcome! Contact the “[Navy Life](#)” support site or click the help icon in the upper right corner of the app.

Android users fear not! An Android application is in the planning phase and will be released in the near future.



Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS)

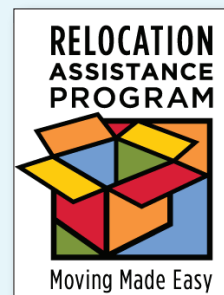
NFAAS allows Navy personnel to manage the recovery process for personnel affected by a widespread catastrophic event. It is also helpful in providing commands with information to support IA family members while their sponsors are deployed overseas.

[Watch the Video](#) and [log on to NFAAS](#).



What to Know Before You Go Overseas – Visa/Passport

- Make sure that you follow instructions on visa requirements for your host country.
- Consult [Plan My Move](#) for special installation requirements.
- Obtain a personal passport for leisure travel. No-fee passports are for official travel only.



Children and Deployment

Wisconsin Winter Adventure Camp a SUCCESS!

Congratulations to our Navy Child and Youth Programs in New Orleans, Whidbey Island, and New London who received a CNIC-funded, all-expense-paid winter adventure camp held at the Upham Woods Learning Center in Wisconsin from 26-31 December 2011. Based on their video/narrative applications, 25 teens were selected to enjoy a week-long adventure including skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, broomball, dog sledding, and cross country skiing.

Various leadership, teamwork, stress management, and technology activities were offered. When asked, "What's one thing you learned at Winter Camp?" teens responded with, "No matter where you're from, you can bring new lifestyles and help other people"; "No matter how much you don't know that new person, [it] doesn't mean you can't become friends."



Operation Purple Program

Do you want to get in on the action this summer? The National Military Family Association's Operation Purple camps are a time for having fun, making friends, and reminding military kids that they are the nation's youngest heroes. To access the 2012 Operation Purple camper application, [click here!](#)

Elevate America Veterans

Microsoft launched the [Elevate America Veterans](#) initiative to help our country's veterans and their spouses acquire the skills and resources needed to be successful in today's workplace. With assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor and veteran service organizations, Microsoft has launched a program that offers vouchers for no-cost and low-cost IT skills training and certification designed to help participants build the technology skills that employers are looking for. Learn more about this program, including where the vouchers will be distributed, by going to the [Microsoft website](#).

Transition from Military to Civilian Life

The Navy is committed to providing career and transition support to ALL Sailors departing the naval service, whether separating after just one term or after a 30-year career. Preparing early gives you the opportunity to take advantage of the available services and benefits:

- CNIC [Fleet and Family Support Centers](#) conduct Transition Assistance Program workshops. Trained counselors offer one-on-one resume writing, interview skills and employment assistance at 80 locations worldwide.
- The [Office of Civilian Human Resources](#) (OCHR) provides Sailors and veterans with information on applying for jobs in the federal service and an explanation of the hiring process.
- The [Shipmates to Workmates](#) initiative assists Sailors seeking employment with Navy commands such as NAVSEA, NAVAIR, SPAWAR, NAVFAC, NAVSUP, CNIC and Military Sealift Command (MSC).
- [Troops to Teachers](#), a U.S. Department of Education and Department of Defense program, helps eligible military personnel begin new careers as teachers in public schools where their skills, knowledge and experience are most needed.
- DoD conducts [Hiring Heroes Career Fairs](#) designed to assist veterans and spouses in their search for employment with federal agencies and private sector companies.
- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's [Hiring Our Heroes](#) program is a nationwide effort to help veterans and military spouses find employment.



Tax Preparation Assistance and Resources

Tax Day filing deadline is **Tuesday, April 18th**. Remember to contact your local [Fleet and Family Support Center](#) for more resources and helpful information. Assistance to begin your preparation is provided below.

IRS Armed Forces' Tax Guide 2011

[The Armed Forces' Tax Guide 2011](#) covers the special tax situations of active members of the U.S. Armed Forces. For additional tax questions and/or combat zone information, call 1-800-829-1040, go to [IRS.gov](#) or follow on [Twitter](#).

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program

Navy Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Centers around the world are open for business. On-site services are available to assist service members and their families with free tax advice, tax preparation and return filing by IRS-trained volunteers. To find the nearest VITA Center, visit the [Navy JAG Corps](#) website.

H&R Block at Home® Free Tax Filing Service

If you are eligible to use the H&R Block at Home® free tax filing service through Military OneSource, you can complete, save, and file your 2011 federal and up to three state returns online at no cost. The free offer is only valid through the Military OneSource website. If you are prompted for payment or have questions about this tax service or preparation, please call 1-800-342-9647 and ask to speak with a Military OneSource tax consultant. Consultants are available seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. EST. For more information, [click here](#).



Ways to Save:

Refund Scams: Beware of bogus emails claiming to come from the IRS telling consumers that they are eligible to receive a tax refund for a specified amount. These emails often contain an attachment or link to a site which requests that the consumer provide personal and financial information. In reality, taxpayers do not complete any special forms to obtain federal tax refunds. Refunds are triggered by the tax returns they submit to the IRS. [Click here to learn more.](#)

NAVY
U.S. Navy Individual Augmentees

[Like us on Facebook.](#)



Returning Warrior Workshops (RWW)

Returning Warrior Workshop Schedule & IA Family Events — [www.ia.navy.mil](#). Click "Links and Resources."

IA Discussion Group Schedule

[View the Fleet-wide list of classes, support groups and events.](#)

